

REMARKS

The necessary formal changes have been made in the specification and claims.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by or unpatentable over PHILLIPS et al. 6,912,507.

PHILLIPS et al. has a U.S. filing date, and hence a U.S. reference date, of August 5, 2005.

By contrast, the present application is entitled to its PCT filing date of July 20, 2000. The present application is automatically entitled to that date and no further paper need be filed in order to confirm our entitlement to that date.

PHILLIPS being unavailable for reference purposes, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

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